

Mayor Paul Gordon
City of Frederick
Frederick, Md. 21701

9/25/91

Dear Mayor Gordon,

The very dangerous situation on Shookstown Road from the absence of outside road stripes was so bad yesterday morning at about 4:45 that because the ground fog was so dense I actually drove past Waverly Drive before I realized it. That was when I was past the trees that kept me from seeing the street lights. I was then close to the narrow bridge that is at a sharp bend. Not being able to see the edge of the road all the time I feared driving to Willowdale and because there was no traffic I could back up and take Waverly to Rt. 40 instead of using Willowdale, as I'd intended.

I wrote you still again about this recently ^{and} as is your wont you ignored that letter, too. I remind you that I discussed this with you and for at least three years the city agreed that those inexpensive road stripes are necessary - and did not paint them on.

The one thing that is comprehensible in this is how you have made yourself so widely unpopular so fast, in this instance by your non-responsiveness. ^{is} If this had been a complaint that you and the city before you agreed pertains to a real need and a real danger, ^{is} even then you/notion that elected officials need not respond ^{only not to meet them} would still be a departure from the norm. Elected officials do not seek to assume public responsibilities (and citizens do not write them only to be ignored. That is an authoritarian, not a democratic position.

As I told you recently, I've seen painting crews in the area and they have not done what the city promised to do years ago.

There is nothing I can do to make you perform your responsibilities. But I can assure you that if there is the kind of accident that is possible I'll do all I can to let it be known that it is your fault because it will be. I certainly hope that if there is an accident it will not involve hitting one of the many utility poles that are almost on the road surface, there being no shoulder.

The danger is not going to go away. There are times when there always is ground fog, particularly at the lowest points closer to the creek. It would be less dangerous if the edges of the road were visible. The cost of painting the road stripes cannot be great. So, I guess you've made a record that you don't give a damn about human life and suffering. I sincerely hope you do not have to live with this because of a preventable accident but if there is one now, it will be the city's fault and yours personally.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg
Harold Weisberg